

The BEEHIVE

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Apostle to Arizona Saints:

“Defend Your Religious Freedoms”

**At the Religious
Freedom Conference
in January, Elder
Dallin H. Oaks of
the Quorum of the
Twelve Apostles
calls on Saints in
Arizona to defend
religious liberty.**

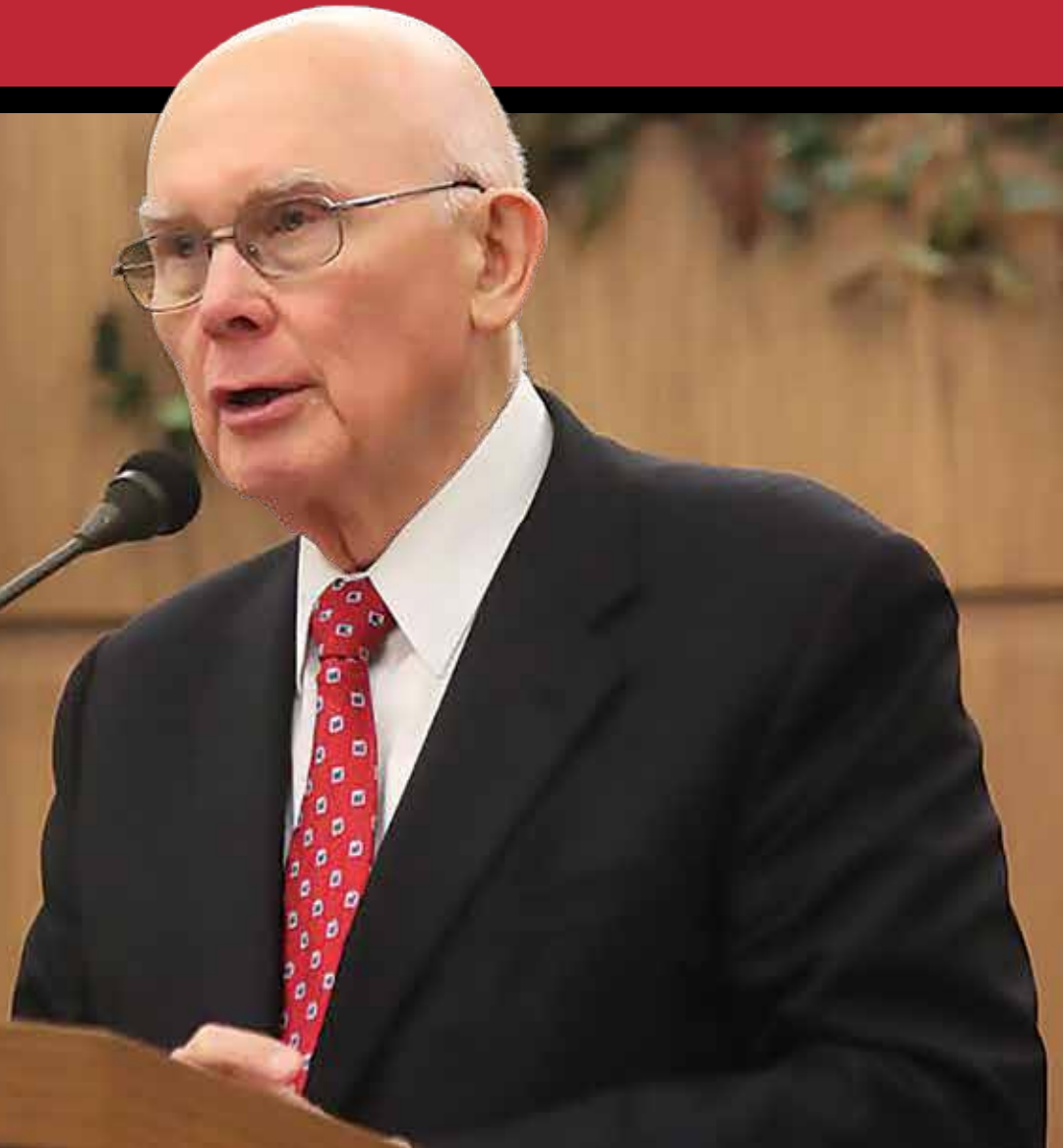


Photo by Scott P. Adair



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Religious Freedom
Elder Dallin H. Oaks encourages Arizona Saints.



Photo by Scott P. Adair

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Apostle Asks Arizona Saints to **STAND** for Religious Freedom

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Beehive

Speaking in Tempe, Arizona, on January 21, Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and other Church leaders called on Latter-day Saints across the state to take a stand for religious freedom.

From the Tempe Institute of Religion at Arizona State University, where more than 11,000 were in attendance, the meeting was broadcast live to 81 stake centers across the state.

Elder Oaks stressed that Church members must “join in the efforts to achieve fairness for all,” saying, “The leadership and membership of The

Church of Jesus Christ are irrevocably committed to the principle and preservation of religious freedom because it is necessary for the divine plan for mortals to exercise their agency to make the choices necessary to progress toward eternal life.”

He noted that it is possible to hold fast to eternal principles and to the tenets of the gospel while maintaining civility and kindness at the same time. In fact, he said, the idea of religious freedom can be compared to a coin: “Love of others and tolerance for their opinions and behavior is only one side of a two-sided coin,” Elder Oaks said.



Photo by Scott P. Adair

Church leaders—including Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Elder Von G. Keetch, General Authority Seventy (left of Elder Oaks), and Elder Lance B. Wickman, general counsel of the Church and an emeritus General Authority Seventy—give instruction at a recent Religious Freedom Conference.

On “the other side” is divinely given doctrine that is true and right, and is unchangeable.

“The most important Church doctrine being currently attacked is our practice and reliance on the traditional man-woman marriage and family,” Elder Oaks continued. “The Family Proclamation begins with the declaration that ‘marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator’s plan for the eternal destiny

of His children.”

Elder Von G. Keetch, General Authority Seventy, who conducted the meeting and spoke prior to Elder Oaks, said, “Religious freedom is definitely under fire.”

“There will be serious challenges ahead,” he added. “The Lord needs each of you.”

He said the purpose of the Religious Freedom Conference held in

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Stand for Religious Freedom Continued from pg. 3

Arizona, as with similar conferences in other areas, was to help members understand their role in defending our Constitutional rights and to provide them with tools to do so.

As part of the conference, religious liberty attorneys Hannah Smith and Alexander Dushku introduced the Church's new webpage, religiousfreedom.lds.org, which features videos and information about what can be done to protect religious freedom.

"I hope, as members of the Church," Sister Smith said, "we would be the first to stand up for religious freedom for all people."

"We want effective ways to resolve differences without anger or contention and with mutual understanding and accommodation," said Brother Dushku. "We all lose when debates on ideas and policies turn into personal attacks, boycotts, firings and other intimidation of adversaries."

To help with this, the new webpage features posts like "Everyday Conversations: Creating Mutual Respect in Heated Conversations" and "Religion in Public Schools: 7 Religious Things You Can Still Do." Also available on the site are "10 Ways to Protect Religious Freedom" and "Seven Keys to Successful Conversations."

"I love the new pages," said Kathleen George of the Quail Creek Ward, Queen Creek North Stake. "There are talking points, tips, etc., for members

who don't feel they have the skillset to have these discussions and speak to those not of our faith on sensitive subject matters that may conflict with our doctrine," said Sister George. "It can be difficult to know how to have meaningful conversations with grace and fairness, but now there's help, a road map, so to speak."

Sister George said the conference was an excellent reminder.

"We have a rigorous effort, a long path before us," she said. "Our fundamental doctrine is being challenged, and that doctrine will not change. The political climate wants to alter the family principles we believe in. We must oppose these positions and believe in God, the commandments and inspiration, despite the cultural climate."

She adds, at the same time, "It's important to show love and respect for all, despite differences, without changing our beliefs or positions."

Sister George's commitment is now stronger than ever. "I will continue to move this important work forward, while keeping in mind that all men/women are God's children with their own agency and path. I have a right to my voice and opinion and so do you."

Protecting religious freedom requires a measure of hard work, as explained by another conference speaker, Elder Lance B. Wickman, general counsel of the Church and an emeritus General Authority Seventy.

The Constitution was created as the result of hard work and compromise "for the common good," he said. Now,



Photo by Scott P. Adair

Religious liberty attorneys Hannah Smith and Alexander Dushku introduce the Church's new webpage and other tools to help members take a stand for their Constitutional freedoms.

in turn, "'We the people' must do the hard work in defense of religious freedom 'in order to form a more perfect union' today," Elder Wickman noted.

Shane Krauser, retired attorney and nationally renowned speaker on the Constitution, agreed.

Brother Krauser, a member of Greenfield 2nd Ward, Chandler East Stake, and a father of six, said, "The specific emphasis on the 'hard work of citizenship' hits right at the heart of the matter. Liberty, especially religious liberty, cannot be defended by an apathetic or complacent people. Liberty can only be defended by a vigilant, courageous, and knowledgeable people, and that knowledge does not happen through osmosis."

Brother Krauser went on to apply

these thoughts to current events.

"We have seen numerous individuals attacked on religious grounds all over the United States," he said. "Over the last few years, a florist in Washington, a baker in Oregon, and a photographer in New Mexico all experienced consequences for exercising their agency. ... People should be free to exercise their core religious values, and no person should have to leave core beliefs at the door of their business or anywhere else."

"As a father of six children, one of the deepest desires of my heart is for my posterity to experience liberty, prosperity, and the ability to worship as

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they wish,” Brother Krauser added.

“We should all understand that if one voice can be stilled, every other voice is potentially at risk of being silenced by a new majority that finds other arguments too ‘bigoted’ or ‘hateful’ for the public square,” said Nancy Richardson, of the Dreaming Summit Ward, Goodyear Stake. “The church offers us security at every turn, spiritual, eternal, hope to cling to and hope to live by. How I treasure the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, our leaders, the Savior and Heavenly Father.”

Especially with new tools at our disposal, she continued, “We cannot sit in the bleachers along the parade route while a tiny, tiny fraction of Americans have the biggest megaphones and holler the loudest.”

“Be a voice,” Sister Richardson encouraged. “Step forward gently in righteousness. Defend, protect. You’ll never be sorry to have done so.”

Elder Oaks concluded with a message of hope, stating, “Despite obvious current concerns about the free exercise of religion, we must never forget that we are involved in the work of the Lord and He will bless us. As the prophet Nephi taught, we must ‘press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men.’”

Pathfinder Academy Delighted by Books Donated from ANWA

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

Mesa’s Pathfinder Academy recently received boxes of books for their school library from ANWA, a national LDS writers’ organization.

“We were thrilled at the recent ANWA book drive and surprised when they gave us several hundred books for our library—some of the titles are even written by the members of ANWA!” says Susan Stradling, principal.

“We are so grateful to this wonderful organization of talented writers. The books are much needed and appreciated!” Stradling added.

Pathfinder Academy, located in east Mesa, had its beginnings in 1992 when Stradling began homeschooling her own ten children in their basement.

“I was concerned about the quality of education they were getting in the public school. I wanted them exposed to the great classics in literature, true history and our great heritage of being Americans,” says Stradling.

Stradling opened her school up to other children then chartered her school and built some classrooms onto her home. Over the next sixteen years her school grew to 100 students. She

placed her school under the Sequoia Schools; in 2014, Sequoia built a school designed to look like Monticello, Thomas Jefferson’s home.

Pathfinder Academy has grown to 330 students ranging from K-8 and is a back-to-basics school with a proven

system of phonics used for reading. Students read children’s classics and recite poetry, and there is an emphasis on history and the Constitution. The children begin learning Greek and Latin roots in the 3rd grade.

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Photo by Nico Sanchez Photography

Pictured are left to right: ANWA President-Past Deb Eaton, Principal Susan Stradling, ANWA President Melinda Sanchez.

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Award-Winning, Interactive Displays

Bring Missionary Work To Life

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Beehive

A powerful new app now graces large touchscreens in several stake centers in the East Valley and is blessing the lives of many missionaries and their families as well. Called Missionary Displays, it's a fun, interactive, highly informative replacement for the old static mission-

ary boards and wall maps. The new app and companion software, Called to Serve and My Mission, are both the brainchild of App Developers CEO and founder Kevin Wade, of the Highland Ranch Ward, Mesa Boulder Creek Stake. "When my kids went on missions, I

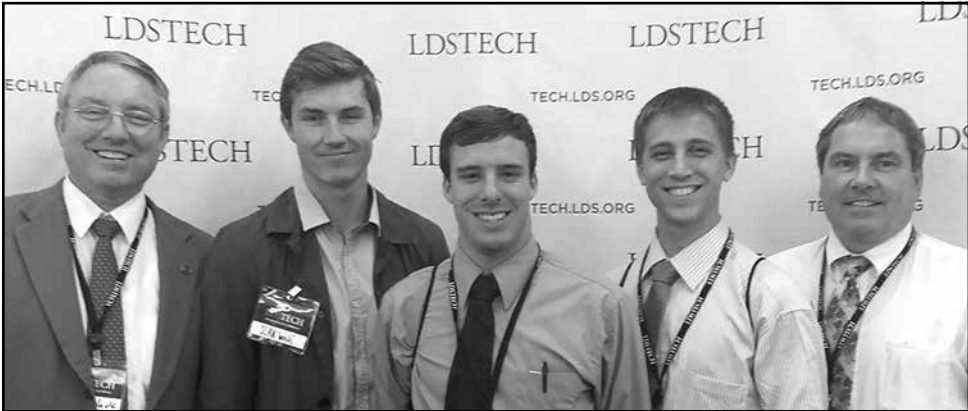


Photo courtesy of Kevin Wade

The My Mission development team, including (l to r) David Wade, Sean Wade, Michael Ellsworth, Jared Curtis and Kevin Wade, after winning several awards, including the "People's Choice" award, in LDS Church's first worldwide "Gospel App & Game Development Contest" at the LDS Tech Conference in Salt Lake City.



Photo courtesy of Kevin Wade

Mesa Hermosa Vista Stake's interactive missionary app display replaces old boards and wall maps.

set up a blog at first, but that didn't do everything I wanted—when your kids go on missions, their friends are going too, and they have pictures and things they want to share with those friends and family and they want to preserve all those memories—so I helped them build their own websites and then started helping others too," Brother Wade explains.

Still, he says, this, too, had limitations, so he next looked at creating an app.

"I love apps," he says. "There is just

so much you can do with them." He has received nothing but rave reviews from stake presidents who have had Missionary Displays installed in their stake centers. "We're excited that stakes love it so much. They see it as a way to honor and encourage missionary service and to easily keep everything up to date," Brother Wade says.

Stakes can create a "group" of missionaries serving from their stake.

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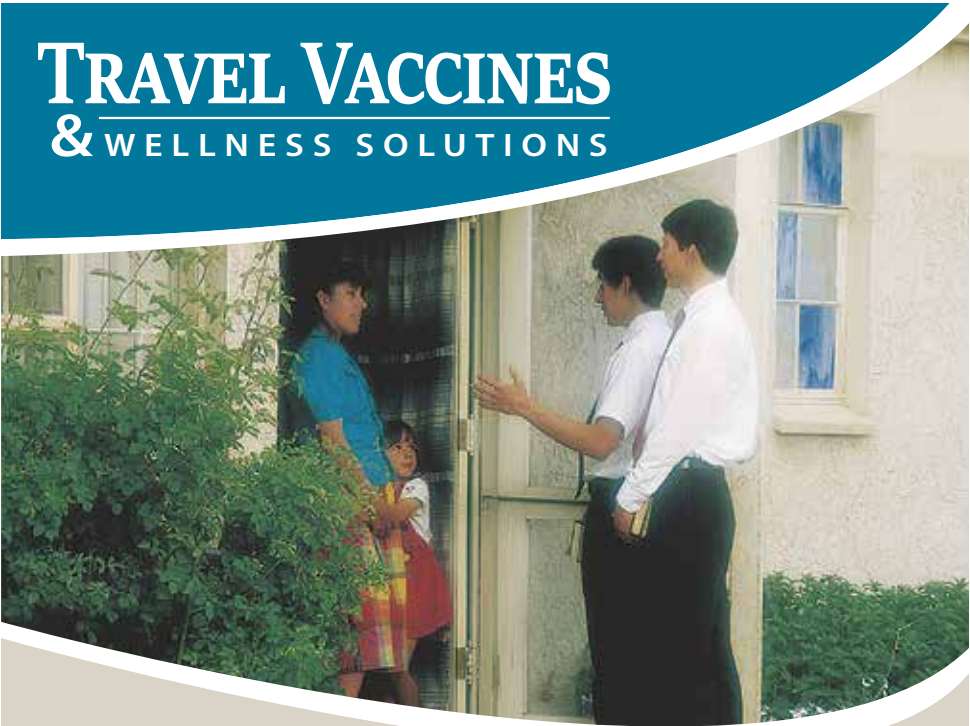
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New Book Helps Children Learn to Treat Others with Kindness

By Cindy R. Williams

The *Little Mouse and the Crabby Cat* is a “good Samaritan tale,” according to the author, Bunny Miner. This is the second children’s book by Miner, a mother of four and new grandmother. She is also the author of a number of guided journals for scriptures.

The former elementary teacher loves children and continues to teach through her books. She felt inspired to write this story about how we should treat others.

An excerpt from the book shares this message:

*“Little Bee landed
on a flower.
Crabby Cat hissed and
made her cower.
‘Treat others like you
want them to treat you,’
That seemed like a rule
he ought to do.”*

Miner says, “The book was illustrated by Cassy Burnell, a graduate from ASU and an amazing artist. I’m very lucky to have her illustrate both of my picture books.”

In fact, Miner continues, “Burnell’s illustrations enhance the story and message. Children have a visual aid to help them interpret the words they’re hearing.”

“I love picture books! I love that stories can be told in two ways,” says Miner, “through the words and through



Photo courtesy of Bunny Miner.

Author Bunny Miner.

the pictures. This particular book was inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan. I think this would be a great addition to any kid’s Easter basket!”

Miner had a touching experience when a mother held her child on her lap and read the story to him.

“I’ve never seen anyone read my books to their kids before so this brought tears to my eyes. All I’ve ever wanted to do is touch children through my words. The little boy was engaged and pointed out things to his mother. It’s very humbling to see that done right in front of your eyes,” says Miner.

The Little Mouse and the Crabby Cat is available on Amazon and published by Desert Shadow Publishing. For more about the book and the author, see bunnyminer.com.

Pathfinder Academy Continued from pg. 5

Strading says, “I created a program called ‘Say It to Know It’ in which teachers and students spend the first part of each day saying things together out loud. They say Greek and Latin roots and their definitions, parts of speech and literary terms, as well as countries and capitals, names of presidents, etc.”

“Because the vocabulary of each subject is most important to learning, I wrote short poems for math, geography, history, science, and even about Arizona, to help students remember and understand. These are repeated daily. As a result, students know hundreds of poems and terms. This program has proven to be extremely effective,” Stradling says.

Deb Eaton, ANWA Past-President, says, “When Susan Stradling took us on a tour of Pathfinder Academy, we were excited to see the beautiful library, but, as authors, sad to see some empty shelves. We realized we just had to do a book drive.”

“Donating books was an amazing experience as writers, parents and

grandparents, members of ANWA—knowing that these books will be a catalyst for knowledge, creativity, and limitless possibilities for young minds.”

ANWA, American Night Writers Association is an International writing organization open to both men and women members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. With over 340 members worldwide, the organization hosts monthly chapter meetings, yearly workshops, conferences and writers’ retreats.

Melinda Sanchez, ANWA President, says, “Hosting a book drive for Pathfinder Academy was a two-fold pleasure: the joy of knowing many children would be able to enjoy hours of reading, and meeting the amazing principal, Susan Stradling.”

“The students of Pathfinder Academy have one of the most amazing educational programs I’ve ever seen, and much of it was written and created by their own founder, Susan Stradling. It is obvious that Principal Stradling has changed hundreds of children’s lives and will continue to do so for many years to come.”

For more information or to join ANWA, see www.anwa-lds.org.

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Holy Curations: LDS Pop Art for a Modern Church

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

Make no mistake: Brother Cliff Mills' Holy Curations line of LDS-themed art is not your grandmother's temple cross stitch. Instead, bright colors pop, and hand-lettered fonts inspired by gig posters and album art spell out Mills' love for his faith.

A freelance designer and illustrator with a global clientele, Mills did a rendering of the Mesa Temple one day that became the catalyst for his new online store.

"There was something refreshing about taking a step out of the client world and doing something I was passionate about. I love my faith and like the outlet this provides me to showcase as much."

Why call it Holy Curations?

"I wish I had a clever answer for you," Mills laughs. "I'd like to think that each of the pieces is at least some-

what sacred. Given that I'm creating all the artwork myself, I'm responsible for displaying it all in an organized manner. Kind of lame when you break it down so simply, but it sounds cool when you say it...doesn't it?"

Holy Curations is a breath of fresh air in the LDS art world, offering clothing and prints that feature not only temple art, but retro-style riffs on Mormon culture. Sunny tees proclaim "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam!"

A shirt featuring the all-seeing eye hovering over a beehive reads, "An eye single to his glory" below—and "My Sabbath Shirt" comes in deliciously fun colors like cranberry, mint and truffle.

That aesthetic sets Holy Curations apart from "traditional" faith-centered design. Of the trend toward photographic realism in LDS art, Mills says, "it serves a purpose and has pretty broad appeal. However, it simply has



Photo courtesy of Holy Curations

Brother Cliff Mills, of the Founders Park Ward in the Queen Creek Arizona Central Stake (pictured here with his son), is contemporizing LDS-themed art.

not kept up with the times." Mills' art appeals to a younger millennial audience in its clean modernity.

"My work offers a more modern approach to an ancient theme."

Mills points to his love of comic books and pop art as early inspirations.

During college at BYU-Idaho, he had the opportunity to design band art—covers, t-shirts and posters.

"I always wanted to wear t-shirts depicting the bands I was listening to and had them plastered on my bedroom walls," he says. "Not much has changed."

Mills likes the humanity intrinsic to those other artistic styles. "Your style is the sum total of all of your mistakes," an art instructor told him once, and the quote resonated.

"As humans, we grow by learning from our mistakes. We will likely never attain a level of perfection in this life, so why try to fake it in our art?"

Mills has high hopes for Holy Curations' future. With time on his hands, he is constantly creating new products for his online shop, usually introducing a product a day.

New products are on the horizon. Mills hopes to expand his line to include more children's tees, women's dresses, skirts and leggings, and activity totes to help keep kids reverent during the Sacrament.

Look for more products, Mills says, but don't look for his work at chain stores.

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Set for 8th Annual June Girls' Conference

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

In her October conference message, Sister Bonnie L. Oscarson said, "Young women . . . need to see themselves as essential participants in the priesthood-directed work of salvation and not just as onlookers and supporters." The Time to Blossom Young Women's Conference seeks to help girls do just that.

The week-long conference, held this year from June 12 – 16 in Mesa, empowers young women to live Church standards, to become confident speakers and leaders, to cultivate healthy body images and to achieve their potentials as daughters of God.

"The program is tailored to accommodate a variety of topics that are spiritual, social, and educational, and also focus on inner beauty, outer beauty, and leadership, all taught by exceptional speakers who center their talks on the Gospel of Jesus Christ," reports the Time to Blossom website.

"Young women learn they have a divine mission to fulfill, have unlimited potential, and can do great things in

the world because they are exposed to exceptional role models."

Some of these role models for the 2017 conference include Elaine Dalton, Former General Young Women's President, BYU religion professor Hank Smith and Jester'Z Improv Comedy Show, who specializes in clean, family-friendly comedy.

Young women will also participate in service at Feed My Starving Children, strut their stuff in a modest fashion show sponsored by DownEast Basics, get down at dance parties and learn new skills through crafts.

Participants can opt for a day camp experience or can stay overnight at the Hyatt Place Hotel. Registration for the overnight camp is \$450 (\$298 for day campers) until May, when registration goes up to \$480 for girls staying overnight (\$320 for day campers). A limited number of scholarships are available for women with financial burdens that would restrict them from attending.

Many would agree that the partici-



Photo courtesy of Time to Blossom

Regular contributors to the MyTimeToBlossom.com blog, a great resource for conference-goers and all young women.

pation fee is well worth the spiritual growth. "Being a teenager can be hard and I was having a difficult time finding myself, but now there is no confusion in who I am or what I am to do,"

said one Time to Blossom attendee.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.ywconference.com/> and follow the conference on Instagram @ywconference.

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LDS YOUTH HELP PERPETUATE HARMONY AROUND THE COUNTRY

By Robin Finlinson
The Beehive

It only takes a measure or so to recognize the a cappella singing style known as barbershop, with its four-part harmony of bass, baritone, lead and tenor, and its frequent 7th chords. Several of Arizona's LDS youth regularly perform in that style at local and national events.

Chandler High School is known around the Valley of the Sun for their barbershop choruses—both for their men's choir, of which 11 of 40 singers are LDS, and a women's choir (the Treblemakers) with two members out of 44. Both choirs are under the incredible direction of award-winning Lori Lyford, who is not a member of any church.

They've performed twice with well-known pianist Alpin Hong at the Chandler Center for the Arts and Phoenix's Musical Instrument Museum. While

traveling, they've been asked to sing in an airport, and even on a plane.

In January, they flew to San Antonio, Texas, for the annual Midwinter Competition, organized by the Barbershop Harmony Society.

"The goal of BHS," says Isaac Dowdle, who sings lead, "is not just to sing barbershop, but to keep it part of the American culture and have it spread." Groups from Sweden, New Zealand, and Hong Kong have attended.

"The BHS is so mentoring," says Diana Dowdle, mother of two choir members.

Mentoring includes teaching younger generations how to arrange popular songs into barbershop style. Among the growing repertoire of "barbershopped" songs are "Somebody to Love," by Queen, "Bring Him Home" and "Do You Hear the People Sing?" from Les



Photo by Robin Finlinson

Eleven of the 13 LDS members of Chandler High School's Barbershop Choruses before a performance at the Chandler Center For the Arts. From left to right in front row: Alan Braudt, Isabella Kelsey, Sarah Gove and Nelson Leany. Middle row: Caleb Dowdle, Isaac Dowdle and Cyrus Tolman. Back row: Ben Poulson, Menlo Grohman, Joseph Gove and David Davis.

Miserables, and Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

This year was the first in which female youth choruses were invited to compete at Midwinter, and Chandler High's two choruses competed against each other for their age group's trophy. The young women won it; the young men took 2nd.

Barbershop is a tricky style, requiring much practice. "That work ethic spills over into other facets of their lives," says Sister Dowdle. For example, Alan Braudt (bass) continued in scouting beyond his Eagle Award, earning six palms. He loves how after hours of rehearsing, hitting the chords right

"amazes everyone in the room."

Skills these youth develop will likely continue throughout their lives. Tiffany Applegate's son Nicholas (tenor) is a former choir member and now a missionary in Norway. "The Lord puts missionaries' talents to use," she says. Elder Applegate's phenomenal musical abilities break the ice with investigators and less active members, and invite the Holy Spirit.

There's something special about music. Is it time for you to join or start a barbershop group?

For more information, visit www.barbershop.org and www.sweetadelines.com.

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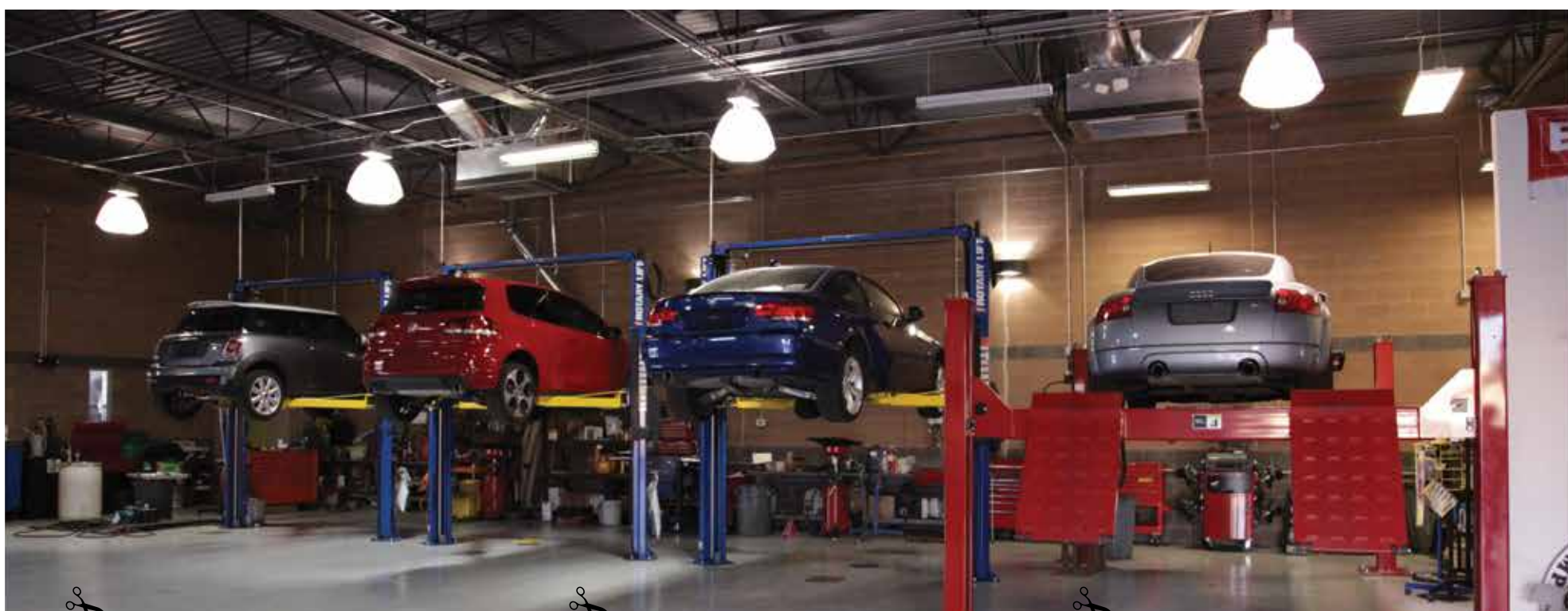
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Mission papers sent off? Great! Now what? There are plenty of things you can do to prepare spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially while waiting for that all-important call packet. Check in with us for tips, tricks, and useful resources for preparing missionaries and their families.

Changes to the Missionary Daily Schedule

By Allison Beckert
The Beehive

A servant of God lives on His time. On a mission, that means a packed schedule of exercise, study, lessons, and service from sunrise to after sunset. In January this year, church authorities announced changes to the traditional daily missionary schedule, providing a new flexibility that will better serve the missions and local communities.

Success on a mission is a blessing, and all blessings come by obedience to God's laws. It's common to hear returned missionaries talk about the rigorous pace in the field. This demanding lifestyle, as everything in the mission field, is based in scripture. The doctrine of creation, just as it names the Sabbath as a day of rest,

names six full days of work. Servants of the Lord are commanded to "labor diligently" (Moroni 9:6). Doctrine and Covenants 88:123-126 also give powerful commandments for how to be worthy of the Spirit.

The approved changes were announced in January and are as follows:

Power to mission presidents to customize missionaries' daily schedules according to safety, local cultural patterns, and missionaries' health.

Missionaries can now schedule daily planning in the morning rather than the night before.

Scheduled training and study can now take place outside the apartment and at later times during the day, rather than in a solid block in the morning.

Preparation day has been extended by shortening the morning study and training schedule for that day.

Another change included the key indicators, or the method of tracking the progress within a mission area, zone, and mission as a whole. These have been simplified to:

Those who have been taught, baptized and confirmed

Those who are being taught who have a baptismal date

Those who are being taught who attend sacrament meeting

New investigators

For those preparing to report, these changes will simply be the way you experience the mission field. These changes are designed to make you and

your fellow missionaries more effective, not to soften the experience.

Wherever you have been called, the power to shift schedules is in the hands of your mission president who has the entire mission under his care. Mission presidents have responsibility for their missionaries' achievement, as well as their health and wellness. Both concerns have been figured into these shifts to policy.

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles commented, "I think one other thing that's intriguing about this is that this is a worldwide church and one size doesn't fit all. So to be able to make that adjustment in areas and missions I think is very significant."



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DRAWN TO CREATE:

Young Father, World Traveler, Illustrator

By Emily Jex Boyle
The Beehive

Sitting in a church meeting practicing life sketches, illustrator Andrew Beck, of Mesa's Valley View Ward, uses one of the speakers or the child in the next pew as his model. In this, he is as Victor Hugo, who wrote something every day.

Andrew's message is that if you love something, you'll be good at it. He says, "I want kids to think about what makes them happy and eventually think of how they can make it a living." Andrew believes it's possible for everyone.

Andrew marches to the beat of an artistic and creative drum. He explains his drive for art by saying, "I've got to be doing something creative since it's a source of happiness for me."

His mother, a single parent, valued his opportunities to explore the world around him and to find his interests.

She opened up as many opportunities for him as possible.

Basketball wasn't his thing. As for piano, Andrew explains, he always detested the lessons, but now he's grateful for this foundation. In high school, he was in rock bands, playing guitar, keys, bass, drums, singing and writing songs. He and his friends enjoyed script writing and filmmaking. Through it all, Andrew always drew.

He's married now, and a young father. Mostly his work these days is made up of editorial illustrations, which are drawings that accompany stories in magazines or newspapers. Companies give him a concept and he works to encapsulate that idea into an image that draws the viewer in. Currently he is working on an animation project for ESPN.

Some work he receives comes from



Photo Courtesy of Andrew Beck

Andrew finds happiness in creativity, as evidenced by this family portrait of himself, his wife and son.

his agent, who receives a 30% of commission, and some from his personal contacts. His work varies based on projects; spot illustrations, he'll produce 3 to 4 in a week, but bigger projects take about a month at a time. Some larger projects will last 4-5 months, while portraits which include no ideation, he'll do often. For portraits, his goal is to make faces look remarkable using geometric styles.

Andrew credits his graphic design courses at BYU for helping him capture the principle of conceptualization. Following an internship in New York City and one in Amsterdam, he graduated. Andrew took a job with the Edenspiekermann firm, his second internship. His family lived, worked and played in the Netherlands for around a year. He did illustrations on the side, began developing his own style, and built his portfolio.

Andrew's wife, Ashley, proposed

the idea that he work from his laptop as a freelance illustrator, so they decided to quit his job in order to explore the world with their young son. While traveling he was introduced to his agent through his favorite illustrator, Olimpia Zagnoli. After she signed him, opportunities began rolling in. He has done work for GQ, The Boston Globe, Men's Health, MIT, PayPal and the New Era amongst others.

As a young man, Andrew recalls listening fellow students describe how they enjoyed watching movies, listening to music and looking at art. On the flip side, he enjoyed making movies, making music and making art.

"It's fun to wake up and by the time you go to sleep there is something new in the world that didn't exist before because of you," he says.

To see more of Andrew's work, visit his website at <http://andrewcolinbeck.com/>

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Holy Curations Pop Art Continued from pg. 8

"I foresee selling my work in a boutique or two in the future, but am going to try my best to steer clear from larger retailers."

Mills' twin passion for art and faith runs deep. At the launch of his latest creative endeavor, he places himself

within the greater design world.

"People have been making marks on anything they can get their hands on to illustrate their beliefs since the beginning of time. I'm just trying to honor this tradition."

To check out Holy Curations, follow them on Facebook or Instagram @holycurations, or visit <https://holycurations.com/> to buy direct.

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“Missionary pictures, emails and stories literally stream in to the stake’s display every week from around the world,” Brother Wade says.

Families love the applications, too. “Families can create their own groups too,” he says. “Then, using the mobile apps, either Called to Serve or My Mission, they have an easy way to collect, organize and share missionary experiences among family members.”

“In our Wade Family group, we have details about my mom’s mission, my mission, our kids’ missions and more,” he explains, adding it was easy to “upload” his mother’s missionary journal.

“My 16-year-old niece read her journal in in one day—and the talk to text feature transcribed the entries into the app,” he says.

Missionaries can start using the app as soon as they get their mission call.

“They can go on and put a pin in the exact place on the map where they are going to serve. They can learn about the mission, their mission president and other information.”

Then, throughout their mission, “Missionaries can literally take pictures at a baptism on Saturday, email those pictures to their parents on Monday, where their parents can login to the mobile app and publish (turn ON) any pictures that they wish to share. Then, pending stake admin approval, those pictures are immediately live and accessible on the Missionary Display at the stake center,” Brother Wade says.

There is never any copying and pasting, forwarding emails or editing required to organize and preserve these memories. Every email attachment is saved automatically, including pictures, documents, videos and audio recordings.

“Of course, we have several powerful privacy settings that you control,” he says. By default, every email is marked private and the sender can edit the email to share it with approved friends, post it publicly or send it to a group.

My Mission can also be used to create and print photo albums, journals, and mission books after a missionary returns home.

The apps—My Mission, Called to Serve and Missionary Displays—are all free and can be downloaded from any app store. Through a special buying arrangement, Brother Wade can help stakes get large touchscreens for \$2000. For information, visit www.MissionaryDisplay.com or call 480-633-8000.



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Best-Selling Authors Give Away New, Larry-King Endorsed Parenting Book Free

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Beehive

The latest from best-selling authors Brent and Phelecia Hatch is a parenting book of a far different type—one that is perfect for parents who are raising kids of any age in today's electronics-saturated world, one that is being offered free in eBook format.

The Hug Project: The Secret to Raising Connected Families is the result of the Hatches' hands-on, "been-there-done-that" experiences of 30 years of marriage and raising seven children.

Radio and television host Larry King states, "The Hug Project gives parents needed tools for instilling civility, responsibility, and confidence in their kids."

Instead of a collection of theories about time outs and toilet training, The Hug Project is a "complete toolkit

designed to help parents reconnect with their kids and have fun in the process," Brent says.

The Hatches, now residents of Heber-Overgaard and grandparents of two, lived in South Pasadena, California, in a 700-square-foot home, when they were in the throes of raising seven kids.

"We didn't have time or space to philosophize. We needed tools—gimmicks you could call them—that would make a difference right when the crisis was happening," Brent says.

"We came up with the tools when a need arose. The tools helped us have better communication and connect with our kids better and show love, even when we may not feel a lot of love in that moment," Phelecia says.

Over the years, the best-selling authors and popular workshop presenters



Photo courtesy of Brent Hatch

Phelecia and Brent Hatch (center) recently released a new parenting book with tips and tools they used when raising their seven children, shown here, left to right: Shane Hatch and his wife, Ali, Dakota, Ashlyne, Saige, Hunter, McKay, and Clint Dickson, married to Chari (Hatch) Dickson.

have shared their ideas in hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, TV and radio programs and in front of live audiences.

"We've seen it over and over: Love is always the answer," she says. "Love is the greatest connector of all."

Studies show that love and connectedness is the antidote to everything from bullying, peer pressure, stress in school, depression and even the tendency to use drugs or participate in other risky behaviors. Connection instills confidence and civility and helps kids learn to be more caring and kind.

Yet, Brent says, people don't know

how to disconnect from technology long enough to connect with each other.

"You go anywhere and no one is even looking at each other. They are all looking down and texting on their phones," Brent says, "and lots of parents don't know how to begin to change that."

The Hatches believe The Hug Project can help.

"This is the reason we are offering it free. We've been so blessed with so many things, we see this as a way to 'pay it forward,'" Phelecia says.

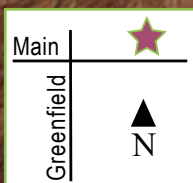
To download of The Hug Project, visit www.BrentHatch.com.

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Photo courtesy of Shanon Paar

SPIFI founder Shanon Paar (in front) and Toni Larson, another volunteer, gathering toys for Helen's Hope Chest, a charity that offers support to foster children.

S.P.I.F.I. Compelled To **RELIEVE** the Suffering of Others

By Robin Finlinson
The Beehive

For Shanon Paar, founder of the non-profit organization SPIFI and member of the Red Mountain Stake's Adobe Villa Ward, paying forward the many acts of kindness she's received is the only way she can imagine living.

Her childhood had "an absence of light," she says, growing up in an environment of drug abuse and sexual trafficking. She spent a season of her life in foster care and emergency shelters.

After years of continuous struggle, Shanon returned to reading her Bible, leading her to a personal relationship with the Savior.

As it turns out, all of this was preparing her for something greater. "You are who you choose to be," she declares.

Shanon joined the Church in 2011. It gave her "a toolbox upgrade," she says, meaning a more profound understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ and greater ability to cope with daily obstacles. With much gratitude, she met and was served by other LDS families numerous times.

In 2012, she started Shanon's Paying It Forward Innovations, also known as SPIFI, a non-profit charity organization whose motto is "Helping people help people."

She organizes several fundraisers

per year, such as an annual turkey trot and Easter time event, which help the homeless, foster children and other charities in her community. Each event holds a "kidpreneur challenge." Paar provides the opportunity for children to learn entrepreneurialism because, as she says, "This country was built by entrepreneurs and free enterprise."

Paar is a vibrant, optimistic soul who longs to see others receive whatever they need to thrive. She now refuses to let any challenge keep her from participating in the Lord's loving work of caring for His children, and nothing can shake her trust in Him. "The mercy of God is a fresh rose every day," she says.

Her next kidpreneur event will be on Saturday, April 15th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon at Mesa's Rockin' R Ranch, where a local flea market will be taking place. The public is invited to come find Paar's booth and purchase items made by children, who will volunteer a portion of their proceeds to help children in need. If possible, bring a backpack to donate to Helen's Hope Chest or toiletries for A New Leaf.

Please find her projects posted on www.justserve.org by typing in zip code 85205. For future kidpreneur events or Eagle Scout projects, contact Sister Paar at 602-488-1117.

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Pink Umbrella Books Offers Publication with a

PERSONAL TOUCH

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

“**E**xciting things are happening in the indie book market,” says author—and now, micropublisher—Adrienne Quintana.

She would know. The LDS author of techno-thrillers *Eruption* and *Reclamation*, in addition to several children’s books, Adrienne knows the ins and outs of publishing. Her new endeavor, Pink Umbrella Books, offers indie writers a litany of print and e-publication services.

Electronic book sales made up nearly half the market share last year. With digital platforms such as CreateSpace and Kindle Direct, many new and established authors are going hybrid.

But from query through marketing, publishing can be daunting. Sometimes writers don’t receive much individual attention, and writing is such a personal project that losing control over a venture can be off-putting for would-be authors.

Pink Umbrella Books seeks to change that.

“Our goal is to be as helpful and attentive as possible,” Adrienne says.

To that end, Pink Umbrella offers competitive royalties and advertising assistance, as well as affordable à la carte services to authors who prefer to maintain their rights and royalties. These services include editing, book layout, and design.

Cover design is often overlooked in e-publishing. “Lack of design irks me,” Adrienne gripes. “Slapping a title and your name on a stock image does not constitute designing a cover.”

Cover design is not a luxury, as Adrienne sees it, but a necessary advantage in ensuring a book’s success. “A quality cover is an investment an indie author will never regret.”

These days, especially in an online platform, covers alone don’t sell books. Authors must market in non-traditional ways as publishing continues to grow and change. Gone are the days when a book signing and a good cover could turn a writer into a bestseller. Now,



Photo by Adrienne Quintana

Kirstynn Evans and her daughter Nora are photographed by Bethany Garvey in preparation for their cookbook launch with Pink Umbrella.

savvy scribes participate in blog tours and book trailers—and Pink Umbrella Books helps authors navigate this brave new world of marketing.

“It’s important for authors to make sure that their books are easy to find online. . . . a compelling book trailer can generate a lot of interest in your book,” Adrienne says.

Adrienne’s authors love her personal touch. “Working with Pink Umbrella publishing has been an extremely rewarding experience,” says Stacy Smith,

whose daughter Alex’s book *The Box* (in collaboration with writer Yvette Cragun) was recently published by Pink Umbrella.

Pink Umbrella is looking for submissions, ranging from picture books to young adult and clean adult novels.

“When it comes right down to it, traditional publishers, indie publishers, and readers are all looking for the same thing—a book that keeps us turning pages,” Adrienne says.

Life brings change, but families are *forever*



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President & Sister Nelson Kick off RootsTech Family Discovery Day

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

President Russell M. Nelson and his wife, Wendy Watson Nelson, delighted an enthusiastic RootsTech audience with a game of Scrabble along with stories of their family heritage at the annual family history event in Salt Lake City. This special Saturday session, called Family Discovery Day, is specifically for Church members with a goal to help them “discover and celebrate their family heritage—past, present, and future.”

The pre-planned Scrabble game included words like family, hearts, Elijah, sealing and joy. The Nelsons spoke about each one of these topics, and more, sharing the blessings of family along with the joy of family history and temple work.

President Nelson shared a poignant journal entry written by his grandfather, A. C. Nelson. It recounted the experience of being visited by his deceased father on April 6, 1891, with a message of hope that his children would be sealed to him. Other specific counsel was given to A.C., such as, “always cling to the Gospel” and “be faithful to the covenants you have made with God.”

“It is so precious to me that my grandfather would leave that record for us,” said President Nelson. “We learned

that his children were subsequently sealed to him. So the reason for the visit was accomplished.” Recently he shared copies of the journal entry with his children and grandchildren.

Sister Nelson took the conversion story of Sarah Elizabeth Daggett Rosenberg from her family history and compiled it into a storybook to share with her great-nieces and nephews. Each of them was invited to help provide illustrations for the story.

“It’s wonderful to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers by telling important family history stories in ways that are accessible and memorable,” her husband added.

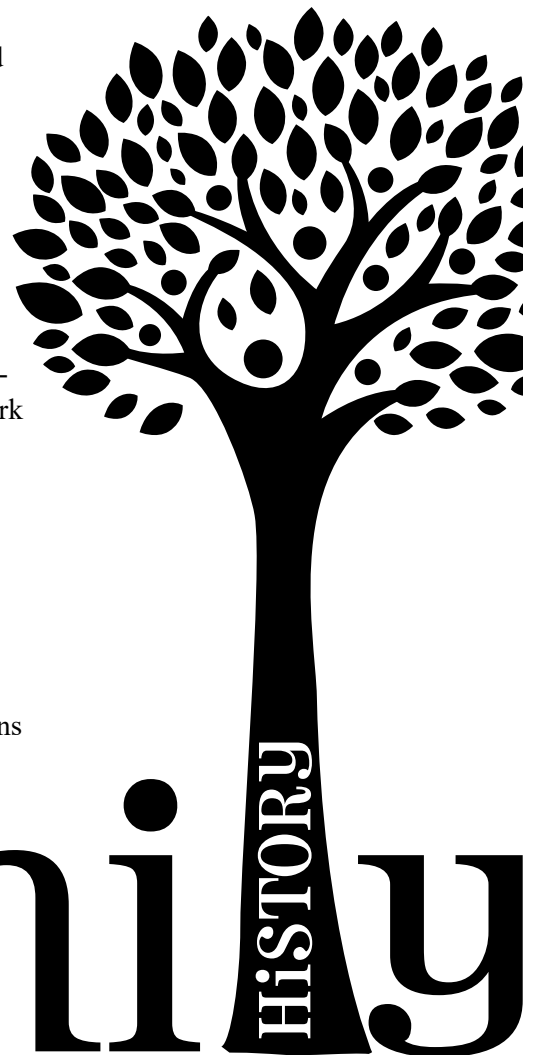
President Nelson reminded us of the importance of temple work for our kindred dead. “If our collections of stories and photos should ever become an end point in themselves — if we know who our ancestors are and know marvelous things about them, but we leave them stranded on the other side without their ordinances, such diversion will not be of any help to our ancestors who remain confined in their spirit prison.”

As in past years, President Nelson, president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,

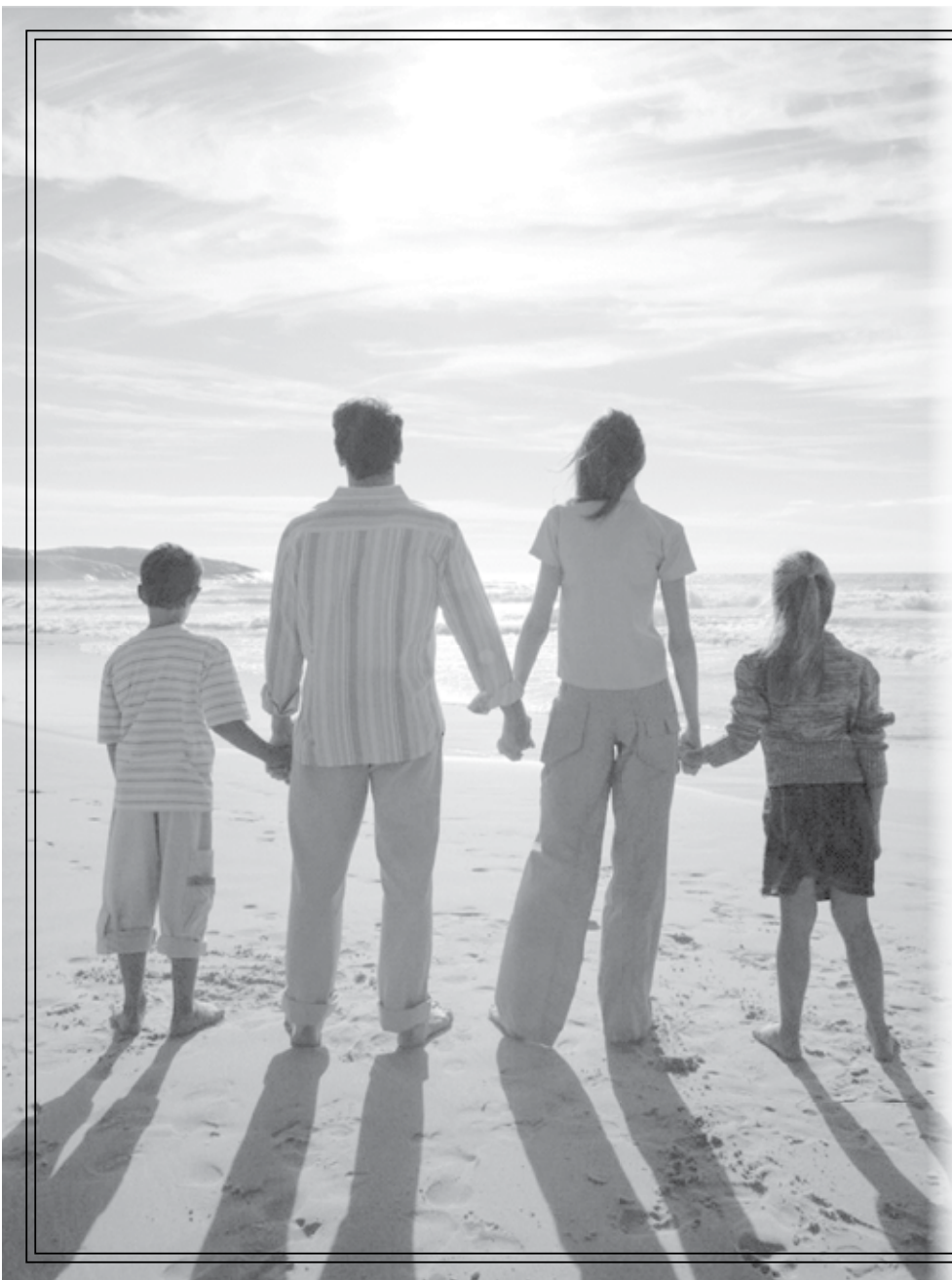
extended a challenge to Church members during the Family Discovery Day: “I invite you to prayerfully consider what kind of sacrifice — and preferably a sacrifice of time — you can make to do more family history and temple work this year.”

Sister Nelson bore her testimony of the joy that comes from actively participating in this great work: “However fabulous your life is right now, or however discouraging and heartbreaking it may be, your involvement in family history and temple work will make it better.”

President and Sister Nelson’s presentation can be viewed at rootstech.org, as well as keynote addresses by LeVar Burton, Buddy Valastro (the Cake Boss), the Scott Brothers (of Property Brothers), and presentations by Sheri Dew & Vai Sikahema, Hank Smith, and more. Several class sessions are also available.



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Mormons in Business Promotional Feature

Bunker Family Funeral Home Offers Compassion and Caring to Local Families

By Katherine Ogden
The Beehive

Bunker Family Funeral and Cremation, in Mesa, Arizona, is a family-owned business that has been helping local families during their time of loss since 1913.

Their goal is to provide unparalleled service in the community. They were one of the first funeral homes to create an interactive online site, which includes guidance on how to handle emotional grief, how to heal from loss, how to help children and teens deal with loss, and how to reach out for help when grieving.

To aid LDS clients, Bunker has put together a handbook and presentation to train stake presidencies, bishoprics, and Relief Society presidencies in how to support ward and stake members during times of loss or struggle.

Bunker Family Funeral Home also has an exciting new project in development: a twenty-two acre collaborative venture with the town of Gilbert, which will include the first cemetery, along with a funeral home, located in that town. This will better provide for area residents—in the past, local families have had to travel to Mesa or Phoenix for burial services. The undertaking is projected to be finished in 2018.

Bunker has recently won the award for Highest in Customer Satisfaction from a consulting company that surveys families across the United States. They are also members by invitation of two International Funeral Associations for their excellence in service, and Brother Randy Bunker has served on the board of both groups. "My family and I were treated with compassion



Photo by Robert Ogden

Bunker Family Funeral and Cremation in Mesa, offering a full range of service since 1913.

and professionalism," a satisfied Bunker customer reported.

Bunker Family Funeral Homes currently has two locations in the East Valley: the University Chapel, located at 3529 East University Drive, Mesa, and the main location at The Garden Chapel, 333 N. Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ. Their website is www.bunker-funeral.com. To reach Bunker Family Funeral Home, call them at 480-964-8686.

COOKING WITH the BEEHIVE

By Rachael Fuller
The Beehive

The Humble Bundt

The humble Bundt cake was a staple at my house growing up. I have rediscovered the Bundt and grown to appreciate its simplicity and ease.

A few quick notes on ingredients: always use quality ingredients, especially butter. I love unsalted European-style butter. I also use duck eggs instead of chicken eggs. They are larger and yield a richer taste. I purchase mine at local farmer's market. I also recommend a high-quality vanilla extract. Spend your money on these staples and you'll never go wrong. My current favorite cake to use in a Bundt pan is the Brown Sugar Sour Cream Cake, courtesy of King Arthur Flour:

Brown Sugar Sour Cream Cake

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 16 tablespoons (1 cup) butter,
at cool room temperature | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 1 cup light brown sugar, packed | 1/4 teaspoon baking soda |
| 1/2 cup granulated sugar | 2 cups all-purpose flour |
| 2 large eggs | 1 cup sour cream |
| 1 teaspoon baking powder | 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
extract |

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a 9- or 10-cup Bundt pan.

In a large bowl, beat butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating for a minute or two between additions. Scrape sides and bottom of the bowl, and beat briefly to recombine any residue.

Add baking powder, salt, and baking soda, then gently beat in half the flour. Gently mix in sour cream and vanilla, then add the remaining flour, mixing just until blended. Scoop batter into the prepared pan, and bake for 55 to 60 minutes, until a cake tester or toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Remove cake from oven. Cool in pan for 15 minutes before turning cake out onto a rack to finish cooling. Cool completely before slicing.



Photo by Rachael Fuller

Bundt and Bundlet pans allow for confections in all different sizes.

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#1 Historic Hiking in Gold Canyon

The history of Arizona is exciting, and showing your family ancient hieroglyphics can bring history to life! The Hieroglyphics Trail is a free hike just under three miles long with a waterfall destination (aim for a spring visit to catch the waterfall). This family-friendly hike is a fun challenge for children. Dogs on leashes are welcome. At the end of the hike the family can explore the rock formations decorated with ancient drawings.

4467 S Kings Ranch Rd, Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

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Local Family Fun!

Five Great Activities for Under \$25 Per Person!

By Heather Kidder
The Beehive

Avoiding wasteful spending while establishing routine family time is tricky to accomplish. Diversify your family activities by getting out of your comfort zones. It's time to wake up and explore your area! This month it's time to try something new. Below are five budget-friendly options for your next family activity. There are hikes, movies and even batting cages in the East Valley for your family to enjoy.

#2 Baseball Bonanza in Gilbert

Get your family ready for Spring Training by practicing together! Rip City Batting Cages provides budget-friendly baseball inside Freestone Park. Families can purchase by pitches, rent out a batting cage, or sign up for the live pitching tunnel. After spending time at the bat, take a walk as a family around Freestone Park's lovely pond. Prices for batting cages range from \$1-\$20, and specifics can be found at their website: <http://www.ripcitybattingcages.com/>

1045 E Juniper. Gilbert AZ 85234 (inside Freestone Park)

\$1-20/ person

#3 Free Camping Near Queen Creek

Oak Flat Campgrounds are a free, first-come-first-served family campground. A few miles northeast of Superior, Arizona, families discover quiet, roomy and clean campsites. With no marked address and no way to reserve sites, questions can only be resolved through Google or pioneering the experience yourselves!

When traveling from Superior, travel east on U.S. 60 (3 miles) to Forest Road 469 and turn right, travel 1 mile to the campground entrance on the left.

Free!



Photo by Ripcitybattingcages.webstarts.com

Rip City Batting Cages. Rent a cage or pay by the pitch at Rip City!

#4 Pocket-Friendly Movies in Mesa

Going to the movies is a unique and memorable experience, but families often avoid the Big Screen due to skyrocketing theatre prices. Picture Show at Superstition Springs is the answer! This incredibly priced movie theatre is also very well kept. At two dollars a ticket, families can catch fairly recent movies on the big screen. Half-priced Tuesdays allow even large families to enjoy the theater experience without breaking the bank!

6555 E Southern Ave #1002, Mesa, AZ 85206

\$2/ticket or \$1/ticket on Tues.

#5 Hiking With Strollers in Queen Creek

Moonlight Trail Loop is stroller-friendly hiking at its best. Just outside of Queen Creek, the San Tan Mountains are ready to be explored. After paying the six dollar entry fee into the hiking area, there are many hikes that are children- and stroller-friendly. At almost four miles, the Moonlight Trail Loop is a cheap way to spend the day as a family. Many other trails are linked to this loop—the hiking challenges they'll present are varied.

65333 W. Phillips Rd, Queen Creek, AZ 85142

\$6 entry fee



Photo by Protrails.com

Hieroglyphics Trail Destination. These decorative rocks line the seasonal waterfall.

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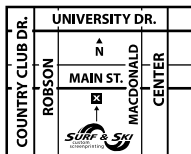


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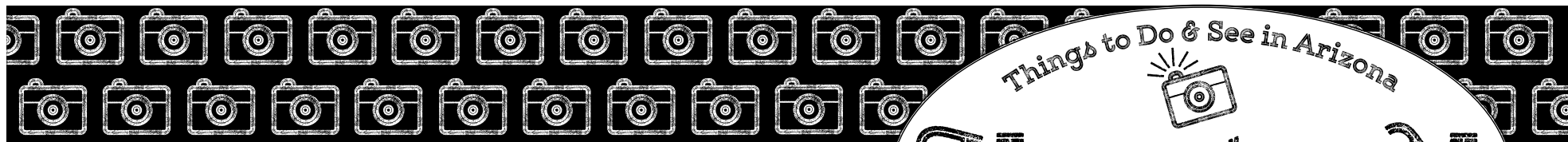
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Hometown History: Day Hike Edition

The ribbon of Sonoran Desert between Gila Bend and Yuma is quiet and endlessly brown.

But over 160 years ago you might have heard the scrape of wagon wheels against rock or seen the white flash of wagon canvas on the horizon. Back then, this was another country—still Mexico, before the Gadsden Purchase. This stretch of land houses all that's left of some lesser-known footnotes in Latter-day history: the ruts of the trail traveled by the Mormon Battalion, and the remains of an ill-fated trek by an early Mormon schismatic sect. Both sites make an interesting day trip from the Valley.

The Mormon Battalion Trail

Dubbed the longest infantry march in history, the Mormon Battalion covered nearly 2000 miles from Iowa to San Diego over the years 1846-1847. During the Mexican-American War, President Polk authorized the enlistment of a company to make up a California-bound overland army. In a politically practical move, nearly 500 Mormons volunteered. The scrappy unit never fought a battle; instead, the battalion ended up building roads key to 19th century westward expansion.

Their route cuts through southern

Arizona, following the Gila River as it runs west. Several commemorations dot the landscape in the area, including a plaque and interpretive marker at the Painted Rock Petroglyph Site and an



Photo by Merry Gordon

The site of the 1851 Oatman Massacre in present-day Yuma County. The Oatmans were part of a Mormon splinter sect that took a southern route west. Six of the nine Oatman family members were killed by hostile native tribes and buried here.

old wooden signpost atop the bluff at Oatman Flat. Wagon ruts and wear are visible there.

The Oatman Massacre Site

In 1850, Mormon dissident Roys Oatman took his family and headed west with a splinter group called the Brewsterites, one of many that had sprung up in the wake of the martyrdom. They weren't headed to Salt Lake. Instead, the fledgling congregants were bound for the mythical "Land of Bashan," a fertile valley they thought they'd find at the juncture of the Gila and Colorado Rivers. The Oatman family never made it that far.

Alone and running out of provisions, Roys, his pregnant wife and their seven children found themselves down to one wagon as they crossed a barren expanse of the Gila Trail nearly a year into their journey.

In this exhausted state, a band of Native Americans (possibly Yavapai) ambushed them on February 18, 1851. Roys, his wife, and four of his children were killed immediately, their bodies strewn across a rocky outcrop. A son was left for dead; two daughters, Mary Ann and Olive, were taken captive and

Things to Do & See in Arizona



**Hometown
Tourist**

By Merry Gordon

later traded to a sympathetic Mohave tribe.

Mary Ann starved in the desert, but five years after the massacre of her family, Olive was reunited with her brother. Marked by her adoptive tribe, Olive would bear their striking blue facial tattoos for the rest of her life.

A DAR memorial plaque to the Oatmans can be found at Oatman Flat on the south bank of the Gila. Atop the bluff at the ambush site lie the scattered graves of the family.

The Oatman sites and trail marker for the Mormon Battalion are a short distance off I-8 west of Gila Bend near the BLM Painted Rock Petroglyph Site. GPS coordinates and directions to the Oatman memorial, trail marker and gravesite can be found online, but it is best to stop at one of the farms or campgrounds in the area and check with a local or a camp host for specifics, since roads are unmarked and landmarks are few. High clearance vehicles are suggested, and the trip is best made in cool, dry weather. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, and be prepared to hike through the (usually) dry Gila River and up a small bluff.

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Promotional Feature

Smith Alston PLC – Community Service with Integrity

By Allison Beckert
The Beehive

Smith Alston PLC, located in East Mesa, was founded by Ken Smith with John Alston in 2012, a move that placed them where they could do the most good with their time and talents.

When they met, Brother Alston's resume crossed Brother Smith's desk at a time when his firm wasn't looking to hire anyone, but Brother Smith took Brother Alston out to lunch and felt his potential immediately. "He reminded me of myself," Brother Smith said.

Speaking Spanish was a requirement for the job, however, and Brother Alston learned Portuguese on his mission.

"—which is, of course, corrupted Spanish," quips Brother Smith, who served his mission in Chile. Brother Alston was undeterred and after some years working together, the two of them saw they'd be well-suited to provide an essential service to the Spanish-speaking community of Mesa, Arizona.

Both the Smiths and the Alstons have deep roots in Mesa. Their mission service helped them serve the Spanish-



John Alston and Kenneth "Patricio" Smith

Photo by Smith Alston PLC

speaking community of their hometown. Their work, both partners said, is like helping David battle Goliath. Getting a fair settlement from insurance companies who are poised to take every advantage and pay as little as possible on claims poses a challenge, especially when the injured person speaks little or no English.

Brother Smith talks fondly about the

people he serves, saying, "I've had clients tell me, in all seriousness, 'You're the first people in this country who treated us fairly.'"

Brother Alston knows it's not just language that loses victims financial support to which they're entitled. Victims of serious accidents end up in hospitals, unable to travel as far as the door to their own room, let alone a law

office. "Their health is the most important thing," he says. "We need to get them well, and after they're well, we'll get them compensation."

An accident, especially those involving tragic fatalities, disrupts victims' families for the rest of their lives. The impact of such a loss is one Brother Smith knows well, having lost his father at a young age to an accident. In cases where the loss can never be repaired, Smith Alston PLC can help the victims get what they're owed.

Smith Alston PLC employs attorneys who value the needs of their clientele. "Often people don't go and get a lawyer because it's cost prohibitive," Brother Alston says.

Working on a contingency basis makes it possible for them to serve the people those who may assume legal aid is out of reach. When serving those who are so often a victim twice—first from accident and again from companies who prey on them—skilled legal professionals with integrity are in high demand.



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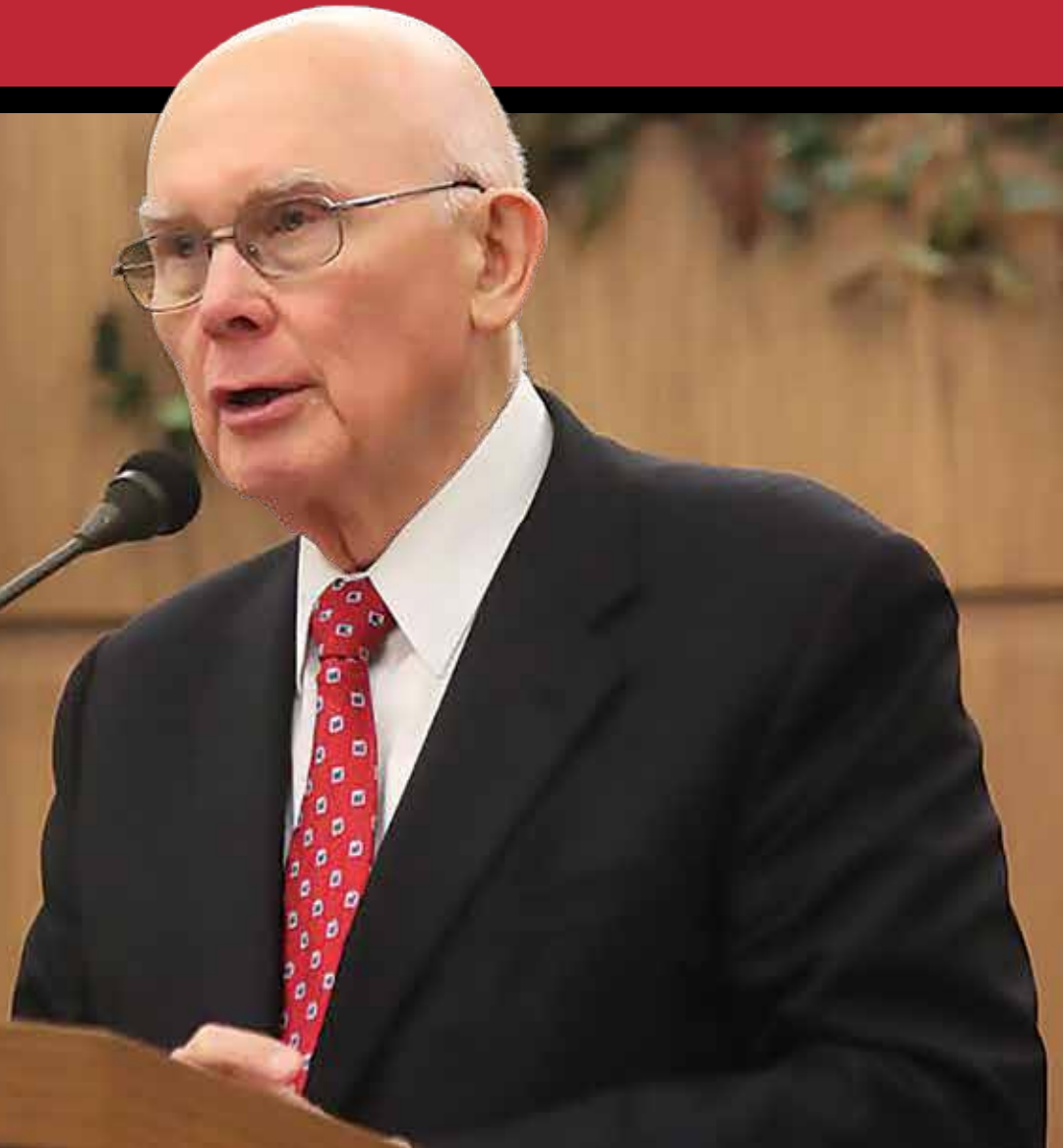


Photo by Scott P. Adair